

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2113

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR OVIP (CEAUSESCU, NICOLAE) RO
SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU VISIT: AMBASSADOR'S PREDEPARTURE CALLS
ON ANDREI AND PUNGAN MARCH 30

REF: STATE 81717

1. IN MY MARCH 30 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER STEFAN ANDREI, I TOLD HIM PER REFTEL WE ANTICIPATE PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD WISH TO DEVOTE MUCH OR MOST OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH CEAUSESCU TO DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, CERTAINLY INCLUDING MIDDLE EAST AND EAST-WEST RELATIONS, AND SAID WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT CEAUSESCU MIGHT WISH TO RAISE IN INTERNATIONAL AREA. ANDREI REPLIED WE WOULD SEEK INFORMED RESPONSE, AND NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION CONGRESSMAN VANIK'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE APPROXIMATELY 1:00 PM MARCH 31.

2. I ALSO NOTED THAT WHILE WE HOPE PRESIDENTS' CONVERSATION WILL FOCUS ON GLOBAL ISSUES, EMIGRATION AND MARRIAGE CASES ARE ALSO LIKELY TO BE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION IN HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT. LISTS OF APPROVALS WE HAVE RECEIVED IN LAST FEW DAYS ARE ENCOURAGING, I SAID, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE PROGRESS IN THESE AREAS, GIVEN THEIR IMPORTANCE FOR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AS A WHOLE. ANDREI DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY.
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3. BEYOND TOPICS ALREADY REPORTED, EARLIER DISCUSSION OF VISIT ARRANGEMENTS AND PROSPECTS WITH CHIEF PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR VASILE PUNGAN ALSO TOUCHED ON INTERNATIONAL TOPICS. I ASKED WHETHER HE COULD PROVIDE CLEARER PICTURE OF WHAT CEAUSESCU IS LIKELY TO RAISE IN INTERNATIONAL AREA. HE REPLIED THAT DISCUSSION WOULD CERTAINLY DEAL SUBSTANTIALLY WITH MIDDLE EAST, BUT CEAUSESCU'S

VISIT TO CHINA IN MAY AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S CURRENT LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA TRIP MIGHT ALSO PROVIDE INCENTIVE FORNXREVIEW OF EACH PRESIDENT'S PERCEPTIONS OF CENTRAL PROBLEMS IN RELATIONS WITH THOSE AREAS. PUNGAN THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE NO SURPRISES ON INTERNATIONAL TOPICS, BUT UNDATED MY MEETING WITH CEAUSESCU MIGHT PROVIDE BEST ANSWER MY QUESTION.

4. PUNGAN FOR HIS PART CONCENTRATED ON ECONOMICS AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

5. ON ECONOMICS, HE SAID HE WISHED TO STRESS POINT HE HAD MADE DURING FEBRUARY VISIT TO DEPARTMENT: IMPORTANCE FOR ATTACHES TO OBTAINING A "FINANCIAL FACILITY" WHICH WOULD ENABLE IT TO INCREASE ITS IMPORTS FROM U.S. WHILE HE KNEW EXIM BANK HAD BEEN HELPFUL IN PAST, ROMANIA'S NEW ECONOMIC GOALS MAKE ITS NEED FOR CREDITS AT LESS THAN CURRENT EXIM TERMS MORE URGENT. HE SAID ROMANIA DESERVES DEVELOPING COUNTRY BORROWING TERMS, AND ASKED THAT U.S. TRY TO FIND MEANS OF PROVIDING SUCH EASEMENTS. HE SAID THIS WAS ONE OF PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S PRIORITY INTERESTS.

6. I REPLIED THAT I WOULD CONVEY HIS REQUEST, BUT THAT PROSPECTS ARE NOT GOOD. U.S. HAS ALREADY HELPED WITH EXIM CREDITS, CCC CREDITS AND EARTHQUAKE RELIEF. PUNGAN SAID THIS WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED, BUT ROMANIA IS AT CRITICAL POINT IN MOVE FROM DEVELOPING TO DEVELOPED STATUS. WHILE HE APPRECIATED PROBLEM OF OTHER ENGAGEMENTS, HE WONDERED IF FORMULA COULD NOT BE FOUND WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR REDUCED INTEREST RATES.
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7. PUNGAN SAID HE WAS READY TO PRECEDE REST OF OFFICIAL PARTY TO WASHINGTON BY FEW DAYS IF DISCUSSION OF THESE MATTERS WITH APPROPRIATE U.S. OFFICIALS PROMISED TO PRODUCE SOLUTION. I TOLD HIM I DOUBTED SUCH A TRIP WOULD BE CALLED FOR, BUT THAT I (OR CHARGE SIMONS, AFTER MY DEPARTURE) WOULD LET HIM KNOW SHOULD WASHINGTON THINK HIS ADVANCE ARRIVALS WOULD BE HELPFUL. I SAID THAT WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO ASSIST VARIOUS FOR ADVANCE TEAMS, BUT NOTED THAT MINISTER AVRAM'S DEPUTY MINISTER MARGARISTESCU'S VISITS UPCOMING, WE ALSO WISHED IT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE TO HAVE KIND OF ADVANCE PLANNING SUCH GROUPS REQUIRE TO ENSURE OPTIMUM RESULTS.

8. PUNGAN SAID HE HOPED U.S. WOULD ASSURE THAT ANTI-FOR DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD NOT MAR THE VISIT. I SAID I WAS AWARE OF THIS CONCERN, BECAUSE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GLIGA HAD RAISED QUESTION WITH DEPARTMENT CONSELOR NIMETZ DURING MID-MARCH TRIP. FROM HIS OWN STAY IN WASHINGTON HE SHOULD KNOW THAT DEMONSTRATIONS WERE PART OF U.S. SYSTEM; HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF FOR CONCERN ON THIS POINT.

9. I ALSO REMINDED PUNGAN THAT WHILE GLOBAL ISSUES WOULD

PERHAPS BE PRIMARY FOCUS OF PRESIDENTIAL MEETINGS, DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD BE EXPECTED. HE REPLIED THAT IT IS EXPECTED, AND ROMANIA WOULD CONSIDER SUCH DISCUSSION A DIALOGUE. NOTING RECENT STEPUP IN APPROVALS FOR EMIGRATION AND MARRIAGE CASES, I CONCLUDED BY STRRESSING IMPORTANCE OF FURTHER PROGRESS IN THESE AREAS, AND HOPING IT WOULD CONTINUE.

10. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED. PUNGAN'S BUSINESS WAS FIRST OF ALL BUSINESS, BUT MEETING WITH ANDREI, WHICH LASTED OVER AN HOUR, WAS EXTREMELY WARM, FRIENDLY AND INFORMAL. HE APPEARS TO BE OPERATING AS FOREIGN MINISTER IN SAME FREEWHEELING MANNER WHICH CHARACTERIZED HIS WORK AS PARTY FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY, AND TO RETAIN SAME READY ACCESS TO PRESIDENT. AT MARCH 24 GNA SESSION, HIS NEW MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES GATHERED ROUND
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TO CONGRATULATE HIM WHEN HE TOOK HIS SEAT ON FRONT BENCH, BUT HE WAS ALSO FIRST (OF SEVERAL) TO BE CALLED OUT OF SESSION BY PRESIDENT FOR PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO APPOINTMENT I HAVE REQUESTED WITH CEAUSESCU AT THEIR MEETING EVENING OF MARCH 30, AND I WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING BY IMMEDIATE CABLE ANY POINTS OR ISSUES, BEYOND THOSE RAISED WITH ANDREI AND PUNGAN, WHICH DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE ME TO TAKE UP AT THAT MEETING.
AGGREY

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